Evaluation Report

The functional prototype for Curriculum Central has gone through multiple revisions, expanding from one PowerPointTM file to an ambitious nine files and then most recently back to only one file. The original design of the assessment activities did not allow for Mac users and PC users with earlier versions of PowerPointTM. The nine file prototype was difficult for testers to download and connect, creating frustration before beginning the testing.

Initially, the macros function in the PowerPoint document was implemented for data collection. But due to an error message that appeared prior to the test subjects opening the document, the macros were removed. Data was collected manually in one-on-one trial sessions and in limited small group trial sessions. Success in the sessions varied, influenced somewhat by whether the test subject needed to learn the information to complete a required assigned task or whether the test subject was doing a colleague a favor by using the prototype. After lunch sessions were understandably less productive. As we approached finals week some of the volunteers dropped out.

Perhaps because the evaluator is now more aware of Tell, Show, Do as a method of sorting learning styles, the advantages to learner self-selected learning packets became more apparent. The next versions of the prototype will feature readily identifiable pathways for those who prefer a checklist of requirements, those who prefer to watch examples of someone else doing a task, and those who prefer to try out a procedure themselves in a safe learning environment before tackling a “real” course outline. The mode specific instruction might be labeled Lists, ScreenCasts, and Exercises, rather than Tell-Show-Do.

Ad hoc alternative treatments were given during the prototype testing, once the learner indicated Tell-Show-Do preferences. Additional examples of Tell-Show-Do will be developed for many of the areas, with learner choices being labeled and possibly placed into cascades, with the option of exiting at any point to try an alternate learning method.

Peer review/ peer critique will be left in, either live or canned. Peer collaboration is built into the small group session. “Do” exercises will be made available using the test database but will be an option, not a training requirement. More “Tell” summaries will be listed as options for the learner. Additional “Show” in the form of narrated screencasts and sample outlines will be made for certain fields where learners have more challenges.

Web options will be explored. Test subjects experienced some difficulty downloading information from the prototype. The handout for in-person sessions will be updated.

Annotated revisions to the prototype are no longer possible due to the scope and breadth of changes made to the functional prototype. New navigation diagrams have been added and the flow between slides has been amended. Location indicators have been added to the majority of the slides. A glossary was not added to the prototype because of time constraints, though a glossary might be added to a web version of the instruction. A take-away summary is available within both the test and the true database. The revised prototype may be used with volunteers over the summer depending on workload.

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